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Chairperson: Ms. Viotti ..... (Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/4/GNB/2)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Briefing of the Chairperson on the field visit to Guinea-Bissau (16-21 January 2010)

2. **The Chairperson** said that the recent field visit to Guinea-Bissau had provided an opportunity for the Commission to reiterate its commitment to working with the Government of Guinea-Bissau. The delegation had also been able to assess progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau; confirm the peacebuilding priorities identified for the coming months; and hold discussions on possible areas of support from the second allocation of Peacebuilding Fund resources. The delegation had noted from its discussions with its various partners in Guinea-Bissau that the priorities identified in the Strategic Framework remained valid. It had also been able to confirm the validity of the Commission's draft conclusions and recommendations on the first review of the Framework.

3. The delegation had noted some encouraging signs of progress in Guinea-Bissau. Firstly, national stakeholders were committed to organizing a national reconciliation dialogue, in June 2010, preceded by a series of regional seminars, which was expected to produce recommendations on how to overcome past differences, prevent conflicts and pave the way to peace and development. Furthermore, civil servants were now being paid regularly, from domestic and international resources, and the Government was making efforts to achieve fiscal stability and reform the public administration.

4. The International Monetary Fund was optimistic about the conclusion of a medium-term programme that could enable Guinea-Bissau to reach completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. In addition, the Government was committed to facilitating the process of opening new businesses, with the support of its international partners and the World Bank. In the area of security sector reform, the Government had completed its census of the defence and security forces and had initiated legislation aimed at establishing an appropriate legal framework. The establishment of a pension fund for the military was seen by all stakeholders as a matter of the utmost priority. Government officials had also reiterated their commitment to fighting corruption and impunity.

5. Nonetheless, many challenges remained in all priority areas. Most of the legislation on security sector reform was still pending approval by parliament. Reintegration programmes for demobilized soldiers had yet to be developed; that fact had been cited by the Guinea-Bissau authorities as a reason why past security sector reform efforts had failed. There was also a need to pursue security sector reform in parallel with justice sector reform, and to achieve effective coordination among international partners.

6. An enabling environment for the private sector was needed to revitalize the economy. Microcredit schemes, especially for women and young people, were in great demand, and infrastructure bottlenecks needed to be addressed, particularly in the energy sector. The Government also faced major challenges in education, since more than half of the population was illiterate and its current resources were insufficient to cover teachers' salaries on a sustainable basis. Discussions during the field visit had highlighted the importance of creating literacy centres and distributing learning materials, while the need for investment in sanitation had also been emphasized, in view of its direct impact on child mortality rates, which remained very high. Civil society representatives had also expressed concern over reports of child trafficking to neighbouring countries.

7. Although drug seizures were declining, the changing nature of drug trafficking in the region had been highlighted. Drugs were reportedly being processed in clandestine laboratories and local consumption had increased. Since drug traffickers continued to operate in the Bijagós islands, it was important to focus on both strengthening the police and judiciary and enhancing regional cooperation, including the exchange of information.

8. The Commission's engagement would therefore be required in a number of areas in 2010. The country-specific configuration for Guinea-Bissau would contribute to the National Steering Committee's preparation of a revised priority plan for the second allocation of resources from the Peacebuilding Fund, based on the priorities set out in the Strategic Framework. The Commission should also consider

extending its support to the national reconciliation dialogue to be held in June 2010; it should contribute to the efforts to combat drug trafficking, including through support for capacity-building and regional initiatives, including the West Africa Coast Initiative; it should also support the establishment of a pension fund for the military. Lastly, it should maintain its dialogue with donor countries, non-traditional partners and international financial institutions in order to continue to mobilize resources to support the country's development needs.

9. **Mr. Mutaboba** (Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau), speaking by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that, while he endorsed the contents of the report on the recent field visit to Guinea-Bissau, it was now important to look beyond it, since what Guinea-Bissau needed was practical support from its partners, in the form of specific bilateral commitments. After repeated crises, the current year represented a window of opportunity for positive change; however, in order for the country to seize that opportunity, all members of the configuration must make their contribution. He therefore appealed for funding commitments at the bilateral level, noting that the report provided a good framework for such support. It was also important not to confuse the role of the Commission with that of the Peacebuilding Fund, which had a separate agenda.

10. **Mr. Mano Queta** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the situation in Guinea-Bissau had changed significantly over the past few years and that the country could now look forward to enjoying a degree of peace and stability. However, more work needed to be done in a number of areas. In particular, peace would remain precarious until the security sector reform process, including the establishment of a pension fund for the military, was complete. In that connection, the Government was organizing a round table of donors to mobilize resources in support of the economy and implement the measures needed to enable the country to function fully; in that regard, it hoped that it could count on the support of the international community, including the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau.

11. **The Chairperson**, noting that security sector reform remained a high priority in Guinea-Bissau, said that it would be useful to try to identify the next steps in the process and clarify how the Commission could help to ensure the rapid and efficient implementation thereof.

12. **Ms. Steele** (United Kingdom) said that her delegation agreed with the conclusions of the report on the recent field visit to Guinea-Bissau and sought more information on the upcoming national reconciliation dialogue and on what assistance the Commission could provide in that regard. She wanted to know whether the Commission's dialogue with international financial institutions would address only security sector reform or whether other matters would also be covered. With regard to the pension fund for the military, she wondered what role the Commission could play in mobilizing resources and what funding gap currently existed. Lastly, it would be useful if the Guinea-Bissau Government could clarify the timing, location and purpose of the forthcoming round table of donors, indicate how the United Nations could be involved and describe what further steps were envisaged.

13. **Mr. Perazza** (Uruguay) said that the field visit had been extremely useful. The Guinea-Bissau Government had demonstrated its commitment to the peacebuilding process by providing full access to all relevant authorities. The delegation's working meetings with the country's President and Prime Minister had been particularly fruitful, as had its meetings with representatives of civil society. Uruguay was interested in supporting all aspects of the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau, including the fight against drug trafficking, security sector reform and other areas where it could draw on the experience gained from other United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa. It would inform the Commission in writing of its proposed contribution.

14. **Mr. Travers** (Canada) said that his delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report, particularly with regard to national reconciliation, security sector reform, drug trafficking, public administration reform and the socio-economic aspects of peacebuilding. Reiterating the vital need to make progress on all aspects of security sector reform, he welcomed the convening of an extraordinary session to adopt the security sector reform package.

15. The seriousness of the threat posed by transnational crime and drug trafficking in West Africa should be emphasized. As the delegation chairing the country-specific configuration on Sierra Leone, Canada

stood ready to explore future cooperation between the two configurations on that issue. Lastly, more information should be provided on the operationalization of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and on the status of implementation of the first allocation of Peacebuilding Fund resources.

16. **Mr. Rodríguez** (Peru) said that the national dialogue and reconciliation process would make a decisive contribution to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. Experience in other post-conflict countries showed that such dialogue often led to plans of action for social inclusion and reintegration, without which peacebuilding was impossible. The Commission's support for the national conference was therefore vital and his delegation stood ready to participate in any efforts towards that end.

17. Although the Government had enacted a Private Investment Act, which provided a good basis for revitalizing the economy, the existing legal framework was not conducive to private investment because it still took too long to open businesses. The Government should take steps, as a matter of priority, to address that lack of competitiveness, ideally by developing a regulatory framework that would allow business to be conducted in a more flexible and efficient manner in Guinea-Bissau. It would also be worth exploring how the Commission could support that process, since such measures were vital to attracting the private capital sorely needed for investment in infrastructure, which would revitalize the economy and enhance job-creation opportunities, consequently helping to alleviate poverty and promote greater social integration.

18. Drug trafficking, which generated widespread corruption and undermined State structures, had a particularly deleterious impact on countries with weak law enforcement capacities. Efforts must therefore be redoubled with a view to the full implementation of the Government's Antinarcotics Operational Plan, and the strengthening of regional coordination in combating drug trafficking. Lastly, given the importance of ensuring that Guinea-Bissau had the necessary resources for effective implementation of all aspects of its peacebuilding process, Peru would maintain its support through the Commission in order to contribute to the country's capacity-building efforts.

19. **Mr. Nwosu** (Nigeria), welcoming Guinea-Bissau's gradual return to stability, said that his delegation would endeavour to steadily increase its support for that process. He called on the Guinea-Bissau parliament to expedite the adoption of the pending legislative package, since the absence of an appropriate legal framework would jeopardize the country's continued stability. Furthermore, security sector reform must not be considered in isolation from Guinea-Bissau's need for economic and financial support.

20. **Mr. Massouhoundaou** (Benin) said that his delegation welcomed the international community's efforts to restore stability in Guinea-Bissau and the wider West African subregion. Stressing that security sector reform was a priority and that the armed forces should be completely restructured, rather than just resized, he asked whether the legislative package that was to have been adopted at an extraordinary session had indeed been adopted. He would appreciate more information on the Department of National Defence Policy and its role in the area of security sector reform, as well as on the progress that had been made in regional cooperation on that issue.

21. **Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo** (Spain) welcomed the progress made towards political and social stability in Guinea-Bissau, as demonstrated by the successful elections held in 2009. While the macroeconomic situation had improved somewhat, the situation remained fragile and the economy needed to be strengthened in a number of areas, including by rehabilitating infrastructure, especially in the energy sector, and by making productive investment more attractive. The Guinea-Bissau Government must decide on, and assume full ownership of, its main priorities, while the Commission should fulfil its advisory and support role in that process.

22. Reiterating the importance of achieving progress in security sector reform, he welcomed the steps taken towards the enactment of appropriate legislation by the National Assembly. It was to be hoped that progress would also be made in organizing the next round table of donors to mobilize resources for planned activities in the security sector. As other speakers had already underlined, the illicit trafficking in drugs and organized crime threatened the stability of not only Guinea-Bissau but also of the entire subregion. It was therefore important to develop a regional strategy for addressing the problem. To that end, the European Union was working closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations

and other regional and international actors, to support the efforts of Guinea-Bissau and neighbouring governments to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

23. It was also vital to strengthen the justice sector, consolidate the rule of law, achieve public administration reform and make progress on social issues, in order to lay the foundations for a more stable and lasting peace. In that regard, the plan to convene a national conference on the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, an extremely important process, should receive the Commission's support. He hoped that the conference would bring together political and social actors and representatives of civil society and that the gender perspective would be taken into account.

24. **Mr. Moraes Cabral** (Portugal) said that it was important to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the current climate of stability, hope and political will in Guinea-Bissau. The main areas requiring the Commission's engagement in 2010 were security sector reform and the establishment of a pension fund for the military; public administration reform, especially in the justice sector; and the fight against drug trafficking. Support for the rapid implementation of effective local strategies to combat drug trafficking was vital, bearing in mind the seriousness of the problem in Guinea-Bissau and the West African subregion. The importance of revitalizing the Guinea-Bissau economy should also be reiterated, as it was necessary for all other reform efforts and for the country's stability. Furthermore, the international community should provide support in such key sectors as agriculture and education — where Portugal was already engaged in bilateral cooperation with Guinea-Bissau — as well as in infrastructure development and the productive sector.

25. It was to be hoped that the second allocation of resources from the Peacebuilding Fund would be quickly disbursed and that the amounts allocated would meet expectations. Portugal would continue to contribute to a number of reform initiatives under way, including in the justice, education and health sectors, and to support the vital work undertaken by the European Union mission in Guinea-Bissau, mainly in the area of security sector reform. It was convinced that the synergies created by strong cooperation between the United Nations, the European Union, ECOWAS and other regional organizations were essential in the current phase of peacebuilding and socio-economic recovery.

26. **The Chairperson**, responding to the questions raised by the representative of the United Kingdom regarding international financial institutions, said that the Commission was in dialogue with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which were very supportive of its work. With regard to IMF, the Commission should closely monitor the implementation of the medium-term programme intended to pave the way for Guinea-Bissau to reach completion point under the HIPC Initiative and should perhaps engage in more detailed discussions on that regard with the IMF representative who had recently visited Guinea-Bissau.

27. **Mr. Mano Queta** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that security sector reform was one of the Government's current priorities. Following a meeting held in Praia, in 2009, which had been attended by representatives of the African Union and ECOWAS, contact had been made with various Government departments and the international community to discuss and seek to resolve the issues raised. Security sector reform had also been discussed at a meeting of the African Union in Addis Ababa, where Guinea-Bissau had been commended for the progress already made and the question of international support for the establishment of a pension fund for the military and the organization of a donor round table had been raised. The discussions in Addis Ababa had also stressed the importance of combating drug trafficking, which had a destabilizing effect on the entire West African subregion. The United States Government had recently signed an agreement to provide Guinea-Bissau with financial support and technical assistance in combating that scourge.

28. National reconciliation and dialogue concerned the whole country, not just the capital and all sectors of society, including youth, women, senior citizens, and civil society organizations, must be involved in such dialogue. The National Assembly would therefore be developing a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of the reconciliation and dialogue process. While previous donor round tables had not yielded any specific commitments, the Government was working to ensure that its bilateral and multilateral partners participated in the next donor round table to make for a more effective mobilization of resources. Agriculture

and energy were also priority areas. It should be borne in mind that the food situation needed to be addressed before other problems could be resolved. Moreover, instability and the financial crisis were discouraging private sector entrepreneurs from investing in Guinea-Bissau, further setting back its development.

29. **Mr. Alves** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that, as part of the reform process, a census of military and civilian staff within the Ministry of the Interior had been carried out. The final results would be available by late February 2010, at which time the Government would seek support for its reform process. With regard to the legal framework for security sector reform, several pieces of legislation had been approved at a special session of the Council of Ministers on 16 December 2009 and had subsequently been submitted for adoption by referendum and by parliament. A bill on the establishment of a national guard was also under discussion by the National Assembly and would subsequently be submitted to parliament for approval; the Ministry of Defence having requested that an extraordinary session should be convened for its consideration. While several bills were pending approval by parliament at an ordinary session, bills that had originated with the Government would be considered at an extraordinary session.

30. **Mr. Mamadu Djarra** (Mouvement de Socialisation Civil), speaking as a representative of civil society by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said it had become clear that a lack of dialogue was the main factor behind several recent crises in Guinea-Bissau. The National Assembly, in conjunction with the President, the Government and civil society, had therefore decided to organize a national conference on dialogue and reconciliation, which would bring together all the country's social, political, cultural and economic stakeholders, and the public at large, to discuss the causes of conflict and how to go about ending the cycle of instability and violence and establishing a culture of dialogue, tolerance and peace. The conference would also enable citizens to express freely their feelings about society and discuss the short-, medium- and long-term consequences of the crises. A conference preparatory committee composed of a variety of stakeholders had been established to prepare the main topics for discussion at the regional conferences scheduled to take place prior to the main national conference. The initiative, which would also involve entertainment and sporting events, was sponsored by the President of the Republic and enjoyed the support of various organizations, including UNIOGBIS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

31. **Mr. Barai** (Chamber de Commerce, Agriculture e Industries), speaking as a representative of civil society by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the idea was for some members of the preparatory committee to visit South Africa and for others to visit Mali, in order to learn from those countries' successful experiences with national reconciliation. There were also plans to hold a seminar in order to ensure that all those involved in the conference, at both the national and regional level, shared the same vision and approach. Contact points would be established at the regional level to liaise with the committee in Bissau, so that by the time members of that committee visited a particular region, the work there would be almost complete. An honorary committee, consisting of the President, the Prime Minister, representatives of the United Nations system and ECOWAS, and Guinea-Bissau's main partners, and a technical committee supported by UNIOGBIS and UNDP, had also been established. The preparations for the conference were extremely important in order to ensure that tangible results would be obtained; such technical assistance as the international community could provide in the connection in preparing the agenda, budget and background documents for the conference would be greatly appreciated.

32. **Mr. Mamadu Djarra** (Mouvement de Socialisation Civil), speaking as a representative of civil society by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the dialogue would not end with the national conference but that it would take up short- and medium-term recommendations. The State of Guinea-Bissau, through its competent institutions, would have to take the appropriate measures to implement those recommendations.

33. **Mr. Nano Queta** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, asked what kind of support the Commission could provide in the area of national reconciliation. National teams could benefit from the experiences of participants from countries that had undertaken similar processes.

34. **Mr. Nanco** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that planning had begun for the round table on

security, which would be given priority treatment. Referring to the cumbersome process involved in setting up businesses, he said that an action plan was being developed to facilitate business development and attract more investment.

37. **Mr. Barai** (Camara de Comercio, Agricultura e Industria), speaking as a representative of civil society in video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the budget for the conference, which made provision for possibly senior retirees, was approximately 500 million CFA francs. A follow-up body could be established to ensure that the recommendations adopted at the conference were implemented.

38. **Mr. Gomes** (Cape Verde) said that the Government and people of Guinea-Bissau were to be congratulated for overcoming the series of crises that had wracked the nation and threatened to undermine the stability of the entire subregion. He urged the Commission to release the second tranche so that the country could move forward rapidly and work to overcome gaps to improve the situation on the ground. While the subregional fight against drugs was important, the primary need for the security forces was a top priority. Financial assistance was also needed in the areas of education, health, energy, private economic activity and public administration reform. Guinea-Bissau needed friends who understood its situation and were prepared to help it.

39. **Mr. Gibson** (Egypt) said that the land and energy crises must be addressed in order to create an enabling environment for private-sector activities. Supporting drug trafficking work must be coordinated with the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and G5/ECOWAS. The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa had made contributions by providing training in that important field.

40. Turning to the second tranche, he wondered whether they fell under the current set of priorities or whether they would have part of an updated or revised set of priorities to be presented under the second tranche of Peacebuilding Fund resources. It would have been a good idea to include international commissions related to the international financial institutions in the recommendations that the Commission was going to adopt and to indicate, for the purposes of follow-up, the agencies responsible for the matrix of activities.

41. **Mr. Cornelius** (South Africa) said that the local situation had improved considerably, as had the situation with regard to salary arrears. International financial institutions and bilateral donors recognized the importance of flexibility in their engagement with post-conflict countries. Guinea-Bissau was being considered for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative and any subsequent increase in revenue would allow the Government to address the issue of pensions and security sector reform and invest in social and infrastructure programmes to boost the country's economic development.

42. The Government of Guinea-Bissau was a reliable partner with a vibrant civil society whose initiatives deserved the support of the international community. The second tranche from the Peacebuilding Fund was one way in which the Commission's commitment could be demonstrated. South Africa, for its part, stood ready to support Guinea-Bissau, in particular in the area of mediation and reconciliation.

43. **Mr. Sanchez-Diez** (European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Commission, said that the European Commission had been providing Guinea-Bissau with assistance in specific areas for years, including assistance with respect to justice sector reform, the pension fund and the strengthening of the public administration. The European Commission had, in cooperation with UNDP, assisted the Government in setting up its anti-narcotics programme. Furthermore, the European Commission was working with G5/ECOWAS on a regional approach to combating drug trafficking, which affected not only Guinea-Bissau but also other countries in the West African subregion. It had also committed over 100 million euros for energy and water projects.

44. He sought further details on the preparations for the round table and on what assistance the Peacebuilding Commission could provide in that regard. He would also appreciate information on coordination with respect to UNODC/G5.

45. **Mr. Campos Martins** (Angola) said that the provision of interpretation into Portuguese was further proof of the Peacebuilding Commission's commitment to facilitating dialogue with the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. Referring to the conference on national reconciliation, he said that a strong sense of unity was important in overcoming internal conflict and shared common goals in order to ensure national ownership of

the solutions. The international community must help to foster that spirit of national ownership. In that regard, he wanted to know what proportion of the CFA francs 500 million budget earmarked for visits to South Africa and Mali came from Guinea-Bissau's own resources, since that would have an impact on the degree of national ownership.

64. His delegation would like the international community to provide Guinea-Bissau with more decisive support in its efforts to combat drug trafficking, a scourge which affected the entire subregion and was a major destabilizing factor in the country.

65. The second tranche must be released immediately. The Peacebuilding Fund had been created to provide seed money and that was what was needed to generate projects to help Guinea-Bissau. Turning to the issues of water and energy, he sought information on the status of the 24 million euro investment to be made by the European Union in 2010 in projects in that area, because public health, education and other services could not be provided without water and energy.

66. **Mr. Ogarekpe** (Ghana) said that Ghana could provide assistance in the fields of energy and electricity upon receipt of a formal request from either the Peacebuilding Commission or the Government of Guinea-Bissau. He would appreciate more information on the expected outcomes of the round table and the conference on national reconciliation. Since drug trafficking was an issue that affected the entire subregion, Ghana supported Guinea-Bissau and regional efforts such as the West African Coast Initiative.

Adoption of the draft conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the first review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/6/GNB/L.1)

67. **The Chairperson** said that the events under the leadership of the Government of Guinea-Bissau had involved broad consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including the international community and civil society. It had enabled a progress report on the implementation by the Government of the Strategic Framework for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding to be produced. The draft conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the first review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, together with a matrix containing indicators of actions undertaken by members of the Commission in support of the peacebuilding process in Guinea-Bissau, would serve as a working document to be constantly updated.

68. The Commission's document on the draft conclusions and recommendations was consistent with the findings of the recent field visit to Bissau. It reached agreement on all the peacebuilding priorities in Guinea-Bissau and focused on key aspects to be taken up by the Commission and the Government as a matter of urgency. In the area of security sector reform, it highlighted the need to establish the pension fund. It stressed the need to consolidate progress in public finance and to take appropriate measures to jumpstart the economy by removing bottlenecks to infrastructure and fostering private sector activity, pointed to the need to pursue justice sector reform and to foster far greater coordination among all actors involved in peacebuilding activities.

69. **Mr. Thomaz Guinó** (Observer for Fundação Kwé), speaking as a representative of civil society by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the views of civil society had been taken into account in the draft. Moreover, both financial and technical support would be needed to sustain future efforts.

70. **Mr. Viana Lopes** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Government by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that there was only one genuine land.

71. **Mr. Barai** (Liberia Al Consensus Agriculture & Industries), speaking as a representative of civil society by video link from Guinea-Bissau, said that the national conference would require funding and support from the National Assembly.

72. **The Chairperson** said she took it that the members of the Guinea-Bissau configuration wished to approve the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the first review of the Strategic Framework for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.

73. *It was so decided.*

74. **Mr. Gaspar Martins** (Mexico) said that any effort to address drug trafficking must also encompass consumer countries and that the international

community must cooperate to help Guinea-Bissau fight that scourge.

11. **Mr. Diallo** (Peacebuilding Support Office) informed the Commission that 47 per cent of the first tranche of US$ 6 million, released in 2008 had been disbursed, $2.361 million had been spent on one of the four projects financed from those resources, in the area of elections. Referring to the youth unemployment project, he said that its training component had been completed, while agreements had been reached with banks for its long-term funding. Twenty-five per cent of the resources earmarked for prison renovation had been used: construction work on two prisons had been completed and a youth detention centre had been selected for renovation work. Of the resources earmarked for the renovation of barracks, 22 per cent had been used. In that regard, it had been decided to renovate 5, rather than 19 barracks, as originally planned. Forty-five per cent of the resources set aside for youth training had been used. A total of $[illegible] million had been spent.

12. Regarding the second tranche, the National Steering Committee would shortly begin to develop projects based on the priorities identified in a detailed progress report on the first tranche and a discussion paper on the second tranche. Subsequently, the Chairperson of the country-specific configuration would convene a meeting to discuss the country's eligibility for funding. The Secretary-General would subsequently announce the release of the envelope.

13. **Mr. Diallo** (Sierra Leone) said that in order to inform the Commission's work and to monitor work on the ground, it would be useful to have electronic links to the information related to the configuration provided to the Peacebuilding Support Office or to another Secretariat body.

14. **Mr. Diallo** (Peacebuilding Support Office) explained that one of the three documents to be discussed before the release of the second tranche was a very detailed report from the field.

15. **Mr. Dauda** (Brazil) said that the delegation welcomed the offer for a strategic release of the second tranche.

16. **Mr. Vaz Dias** (Guinea-Bissau), speaking on behalf of the Commission's Chair from Guinea-Bissau, welcomed the use of offers of assistance and cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. His Government looked forward to receiving the second tranche.

17. **Mr. Mariatheasan** (Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau), speaking by video link from Guinea-Bissau, invited members to travel to Guinea-Bissau so that they could see the situation on the ground for themselves, noting that the country still needed considerable assistance especially in the areas of literacy, education, health, energy and water. Regarding the accessibility of information, he said that data were provided by Guinea-Bissau to New York on a regular basis and that members could also consult the information provided by the Peacebuilding Fund.

18. Since Guinea-Bissau welcomed bilateral initiatives in addition to multilateral efforts, countries that wished to support proposed projects need not wait for others or go before committing resources. For example, funding of $6 million was required for a three-year United Nations Institute for Training and Research project to integrate demobilized members of the armed forces into society in many productive ways.

19. **The Chairperson** thanked all contributors and assured them that the Peacebuilding Commission would continue to support Guinea-Bissau's development efforts.

The meeting rose at [illegible] p.m.